

Pennsylvania
Annual Report 2006





PENNSYLVANIA Annual Report Fiscal Year 2006

(Cover Photo: Keystone Biofuels,
Shiremanstown, PA— see page 16)
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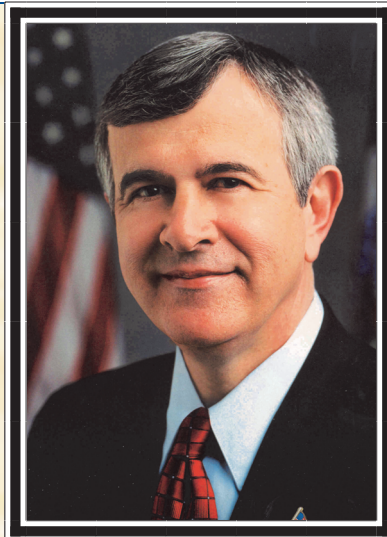
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**Agriculture Secretary
Mike Johanns**

In 2006, across this great nation, USDA Rural Development employees made a difference in the lives of virtually every person who calls rural America home. Whether it's financing rural renewable energy projects, guaranteeing a loan for a new business, building or upgrading a rural hospital, construction of a new community center, laying water lines, remodeling apartments or drilling a well for a senior citizen living on a homestead, we're building a more vibrant rural America.



As I traveled across the country conducting Farm Bill Forums in preparation for the 2007 farm bill, I heard loud and clear the message of support for USDA's rural development efforts. Out of hundreds of hours of discussion and thousands of comments, our rural development programs received nearly unanimous support. That is a vote of confidence in which the 6,300 men and women of USDA Rural Development can indeed be proud.

Rural America today is changing. Its economy is diversifying. The broadband revolution erases barriers of time and distance. New industries like renewable energy and biobased products hold exciting potential for investment and growth. We are working hard to improve rural health care, schools, and other community facilities, to increase rural homeownership, and to support rural entrepreneurs. The opportunities and challenges vary from place to place, but one thing remains the same: the commitment of USDA Rural Development to the future of rural communities.

This is a new era for America's rural communities as evidenced by an amazing happening in St. Louis, Missouri in early October, when 1,350 leaders from agriculture, industry, and government gathered to explore ways to move renewable energy production to the next level. Three cabinet level officials, political leaders from all levels of government, business leaders, community representatives and the media listened as President Bush spoke, continuing his long standing support for development of renewable energy from America's rural areas. The President is strongly committed to renewable energy development including production of fuel from cellulosic sources like switchgrass. USDA Rural Development plays a key role in these efforts, along with other USDA agencies, the Department of Energy, and other federal partners. Together, we are making a real difference.

We have accomplished much over the past year and we are eager to build upon those accomplishments by strengthening even further our rural communities. We remain committed to creating an environment where future generations will not only live, but thrive in rural America. As we enter 2007, the 50 million people who live in rural America are developing new opportunities in every area – and I am proud that USDA Rural Development will continue to be a partner in these efforts, as it has been for more than 70 years.



Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr

For the employees of USDA Rural Development – and the millions of rural Americans they serve – 2006 was a year of achievement and progress. Whether it's a new biodiesel plant, a medical clinic, energy efficient corn driers, a wind farm, broadband service or digital TV service for a public broadcasting station, USDA Rural Development is “connecting the assets” that we’ve provided to rural America. It's a lot of money: \$76.8 billion since the start of the Bush Administration. This investment represents Rural Development leading the way to a bright new future for Americans who choose to live in our rural communities and on our farms. Not only have we invested an average of \$13 Billion a year over the last six years, (a 35% increase over 1998-2000) but we’ve created or saved an estimated 1.5 million American jobs.

America's new fuel industry is rural, it's diverse, it's mainstream – and it's growing fast. All across this great nation, entrepreneurs with the backing of a firm and reliable government energy policy, as outlined by President Bush, are making a contribution that expands America's energy options. In doing so they are not only providing new sources of energy for our nation, but also creating a new path to wealth creation for rural America. In the past six years we've committed more than \$482 million from our business and utilities programs to over 1,000 renewable energy ventures.

We marked other milestones this year as well. In housing, Rural Development rolled out “GUS”, the Guaranteed Underwriting System, which will enable the lending community to get a fast and accurate answer when processing loan applications. We observed an important milestone in our popular “Self Help” housing program. Started in 1961, this program topped the 40,000 loan mark in 2006, and the total dollar amount of mortgages made under the program topped \$2 billion. We also began the process of revitalizing our multi-family housing portfolio. Late this year we announced that 78 multi-family housing developments in 16 states have been selected for inclusion in a demonstration program designed to preserve and rehabilitate apartment complexes financed through USDA Rural Development. We also made about \$617 million in loans and grants for Community Facilities projects including fire stations, public safety buildings, community halls, and emergency equipment.

We continued to support improvements to rural electric infrastructure and provided telecommunications loans, broadband loans and Community Connect broadband grants. We also provided hundreds of million of dollars in water and environmental loans and grants. We made over \$766 million in business loan guarantees and provided over \$35 million in funding to producers through the Value Added Producer Grant program.

Every one of our employees is charged to work with rural communities to create new economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural America while increasing connectivity between rural development programs, to find ways to bring even greater service to our rural customers.

Working in partnership, a rural renaissance is upon us. At Rural Development, we are committed to the future of rural communities.

**Pennsylvania State Director
Gary H. Groves**

USDA Rural Development – Pennsylvania had an outstanding fiscal year (FY) in 2006, achieving record numbers of investments to improve the quality of life for our rural communities and rural residents. We worked on a broad spectrum of projects which is a tribute to the labor and dedication of over 120 loyal Rural Development team members. Likewise, serving elsewhere, one of our Area Directors spent 60 days serving the victims of Hurricane Katrina and another spent six months serving in the military in the Middle East. Some of the accomplishments Rural Development provided were:



- Funding to assist over 1,000 rural, eligible families become homeowners
- Over \$37 million to fund water and sewer projects in the Commonwealth
- A new rural hospital wing and expansion and an expanded rural nursing home
- The expansion of a Pennsylvania produced soybean based biodiesel plant
- Numerous vehicles and facilities for local first responders
- \$55 million in Business and Industry guaranteed loans creating or saving hundreds of jobs, and
- Funding several manure digesters to produce electricity from the methane generated.

With the support and leadership of President Bush, Secretary Johanns, and Under Secretary Dorr, we invested over \$1.2 million every day into rural Pennsylvania. This would not be possible without our many partners working with us for a common objective to enhance the future of rural communities.

We are optimistic about improving our program delivery in Housing, Community Facilities, Business & Industry, Broadband, and Renewable Energy as we begin the new year. As you review this report, you will see a sampling of projects funded by Rural Development in FY 2006. We are working to improve our service to our rural customers, and our employees anxiously await the opportunity to help as we remain “Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.”

FY '06 Investment in Pennsylvania

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

Water Waste

Direct Loans	\$24,618,100	
Grants	12,837,740	\$37,455,840

Community Facilities

Direct Loans	14,312,600	
Guaranteed Loans	7,430,058	
Grants	529,700	
RCDI Grants	300,000	
DLT Grants	1,231,611	23,663,969

Telecommunication Loans

4,452,850

Electric Loans

40,500,000

RURAL BUSINESS & COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS:

Guaranteed Business & Industry

55,870,000

Specialty Lending

Rural Business Opportunity Grants	50,000	
Intermediary Relending Program	1,250,000	
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	1,013,500	
Renewable Energy Grants	784,100	3,097,600

Cooperative Program

Value Added Grants	261,901	
RCDG	225,000	486,901

Rural Development Council

14,242

USDA-DOE Joint Biomass Research & Development Initiative

1,891,729

RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS:

Single Family

502 Direct	33,345,769	
502 Guaranteed Loans	74,091,942	
504 Repair Loans	1,324,194	
504 Repair Grants	1,151,900	
523 Mutual Self-Help Grant	558,192	110,471,997

Multi-Family

533 Housing Preservation Grants	365,133	
538 Guaranteed Loans	3,875,000	
515 Loans	489,372	
515 Rental Assistance	16,515,096	21,244,601

TOTAL

\$299,289,729

Investment Highlights

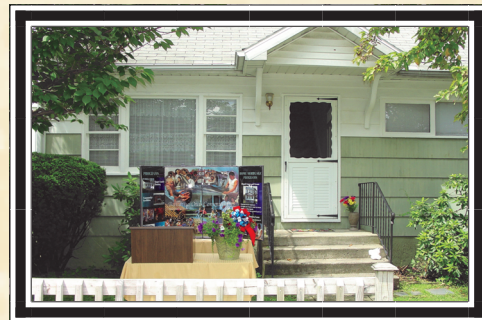
Community Programs:

- Pennsylvania's Community Programs obligated a total of \$61,119,809 in loans and grants for Water and Environmental Programs and Community Facilities projects.
- Funding will provide water or sewer service to over 25,000 users in 23 rural communities and essential community facilities to 27 communities for 972,846 residents in rural communities. The Community Facilities funding included 16 loans and 3 grants to first responders.
- 89 percent of Community Facilities loans and grants were made to faith based and other community organizations with the majority of those being to first responders.
- \$40.5 million in loans to electric cooperatives were approved.



Rural Housing Programs:

- \$74,091,942 represents the funding of 730 single family housing guaranteed loans assisting rural residents to become homeowners.
- 313 single family direct loans were made in the amount of \$33,345,769 to eligible, low-income rural homeowners.
- Two Section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans in the amount of \$3,875,000 were made to provide affordable rental housing for very low and low income families.



Rural Business & Cooperative Programs:

- \$55,870,000 in Business & Industry guaranteed loans helped to create or preserve rural jobs across the state.
- The Specialty Lending Program's over \$3 million provided funds for feasibility studies, renewable energy projects, farm anaerobic digesters (pictured) and more. The Cooperative Program added \$486,901 in value-added and rural community development grants.



South Shore Farms



With grape vineyards in the background, State Director Gary H. Groves is shown being televised following the ceremonial check presentation ceremony highlighting the \$17,500 Value-Added Agriculture Product Market Development Grant (VADG) presented to Randolph H. Graham of South Shore Farms, Northeast, Erie Co. The grant funds will be used to develop a winery incubator to allow grape farmers to start small farm wineries. VADGs are made available to agricultural commodity producers who refine their products in order to increase the value of these products to customers.

Human Services Center

Human Services Center, a residential treatment facility located in New Castle, Lawrence County, will provide residential and outpatient mental health services to up to eight adolescents with mental health disorders. Renovations to the existing 'farmhouse' for on-site staff housing, cooking and various house maintenance functions and the new construction of a one-story building to house the adolescent residents are planned. Rural Development's Community Facilities program helped fund the project with a \$500,000 Community Facilities loan and a \$100,000 grant. Community Facilities loans and grants and guaranteed loans help to develop essential community facilities in rural areas such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools, child care centers, etc.

French Creek Valley Christian School

A Rural Development \$300,000 Community Facilities loan and a grant of \$100,000 helped French Creek Valley Christian School, a faith-based organization, in Saegertown, Crawford County, make needed repairs to the school's roof, building and daycare center offering the opportunity for expansion of the capacity of the K—12 grades as well as its daycare preschool. Through the Faith Based and Community Initiatives, USDA and ten other federal agencies can partner with faith based and community organizations to help provide vital assistance to those in need. Rural Development's existing Community Facilities, Mutual Self-Help Housing and Rural Rental Housing programs, to name a few, are available. See www.usda.gov/fbci and www.fbci.usda.gov/form/ for more information on this initiative.



Bradford Regional Medical Center

Bradford Regional Medical Center in Bradford, McKean County, received a \$110,575 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant from Rural Development. The funds will be used to install telemedicine monitoring equipment at six senior citizen centers throughout the county. The user-friendly software will guide the patient by voice to collect all vital data that is transmitted to a central station via an internal modem with the capability to track and trend a patient's condition. It is estimated that the monitors will be available to over 19,000 rural Pennsylvania residents. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine loan and grant program is designed to help meet rural America's education and healthcare needs through the use of advanced telecommunications technologies.



North Central Pa Regional Planning and Development Commission

A \$500,000 Intermediary Relending Program loan to North Central Pa Regional Planning and Development Commission by Rural Development will make funds available to support economic and community development and assist in the creation or saving of rural jobs in Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter counties. North Central's low-interest loan was part of a national announcement in June awarding funds to six organizations in five states totaling \$4 million. USDA Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program lends funds to intermediaries, which provide loans to finance business facilities and community development projects in rural areas.

502 Housing Loan Program

A mom and two sons in Edinburg can now enjoy a new home (pictured right) replacing their raised, irreparable former home (left) thanks to the 502 Direct Loan Program. Rural Development's Section 502 loans are primarily used to help low-income individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to build, repair, renovate or relocate a home, or to purchase and prepare sites, including providing water and sewage facilities. Applicants may obtain 100% financing, and mortgage payments are based on the household's adjusted annual income.



Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation

The Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD) pictured, with a 50+ year history in providing economic development services to the Blair County business community, was awarded a \$750,000 low interest loan. These funds from Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program will be used to provide low interest loans to commercial, industrial, services and technology-related businesses in Blair County. This loan fund, in turn, will help to create 41 new jobs and retain 75 jobs. ABCD previously received \$500,000 for its Intermediary Relending Program in both 1999 and 2004 and successfully lent out all of the funds to aid 14 businesses.



Cresson Volunteer Fire Company



Cresson Volunteer Fire Company received a Community Facilities Loan of \$275,000 toward the purchase of a 2005 Crimson 100' Tower Truck. The aerial truck was a vital piece of the community's (Cresson Borough and surrounding townships in Cambria County) emergency planning and

safety protection. The \$675,000 project also received funding from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency with the balance from the fire company.

Central Mainline Sewer Authority

The Central Mainline Sewer Authority's \$11.7 million sewer project to correct malfunctioning septic systems that created health hazards and sanitary problems was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August in Lilly, Cambria County. The project was previously funded with a Rural Development loan of \$4,054,350 and a grant of \$5,296,900, \$675,000 from the US Army Corps of Engineers and other monies. The project will serve 1,023 residential and 21 non-residential users in the Boroughs of Cassandra and Lilly and portions of the Townships of Cresson, Portage and Washington.

Your Child's Place

Rural Development provided a Community Facilities guaranteed loan of \$3,000,000 to Your Child's Place, Inc. of Washington, Washington County, an affiliate of United Cerebral Palsy of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The funds, along with monies from other sources, will help finance the purchase of an existing building and the need for substantial remodeling to create a facility that will provide child care to severely disabled children with special medical needs. The children will have the opportunity to take part in a quality, educationally based program with their peers and will allow many of the parents, who care for their children at home, to seek employment with the assurance that their children are receiving proper care. The facility will initially be able to accommodate between 15 and 20 children of ages between birth and about five years. It will be one of only three pediatric extended care programs in Pennsylvania with only a handful existing nationwide. Rural Development can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders (up to 90 percent of any loss of interest or principal on the loan) for essential community facilities in rural areas.



Multiple Family Housing

Under the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (Section 538), Rural Development issued a Conditional Commitment to Hickory Meadow LLC for \$1,750,000 in July and another to Crossroads Meadow LLC in October for \$1,700,000. Construction has started on both of the properties, and it is anticipated they will be ready for occupancy in December, 2007.

The 538 program provides credit enhancements to encourage private and public lenders to make new loans for affordable rental properties in eligible rural areas. The program is designed to provide housing for low- or moderate-income families or individuals whose incomes at initial occupancy do not exceed 115% of the area median income (AMI), adjusted for family size. Monthly rent for a unit may not exceed 30% of 115% of the AMI.

Pictured is an architectural drawing of the 538 multi-family housing project that is one of two that were approved in FY 2006. Hickory Meadows is in White Township near Indiana, Indiana County and Crossroads Meadows is in Ebensburg, Cambria County.



Schuylkill Township



State Director Groves is pictured addressing the audience at a ceremonial check presentation ceremony held to highlight Rural Development's Community Facilities loan of \$400,000 to the Schuylkill Township Supervisors. The monies will be used to repair an approximate 13-mile radius of township roads in the Mary-D, Tuscarora and Brockton areas in Schuylkill County. Surface deterioration, caused by inclement weather and the recent installation of necessary water and sewer lines as well as poor drainage, will be addressed by the new bituminous service overlay that will be applied.

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department will have a new 2006 equipped mini pumper fire truck (pictured being built) with the help of a \$156,000 Community Facilities loan from USDA Rural Development. It should be ready for delivery in early 2007. The loan also helped refinance the debt on an existing fire truck. The Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department provides first responder services to the Townships of Franklin and part of Burlington in Bradford County. Also pictured is the Franklin Twp. Vol. Fire Dept 22 station that will house the new truck.



Communications centers, police and fire stations, fire trucks, rescue vehicles and jails are examples of public safety projects that may be funded through Community Facilities loans, guaranteed loans and grants.



ARC of Northumberland County

ARC of Northumberland County received a \$99,500 Rural Business Enterprise Grant from Rural Development towards a project that will create an electronic recycling center that provides a setting for annual training of 12 to 16 persons with developmental disabilities. They will learn how to work on dismantling and recovering parts from donated electronics so that they can be resold. The training, in a regular job environment, will prepare the trainees for future employment opportunities.

Guaranteed Housing Program

A family in Roseto, Northampton County, whose home was financed by Rural Development's guaranteed home loan program, hosted a ceremony to recognize National Homeownership Month and the partners who made their dream of homeownership possible. The homeowners' lender, Garry Seidel of Countrywide Home Loans and realtor, Spirit Tutzler of Patt White, GMAC Real Estate, who received a Certificate of Appreciation from USDA Rural Development, joined representatives of USDA Rural Development and others on the front lawn of the family's new home (pictured) to highlight the partnership that made it all possible.



USDA Rural Development guaranteed loans are available to qualified, rural applicants/homeowners-to-be. These are loans made by other lenders, such as banks or credit unions, and are guaranteed by Rural Development. They are loans where borrowers are unable to secure the necessary credit without a guarantee. No down payment or monthly private mortgage insurance charges are required, and applicants may borrow up to 100% of the appraised value of the property plus the 2% guarantee fee.

Hallstead Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority



State Director Groves (third from left) met with members of the Hallstead Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority's Board (pictured), Susquehanna County, and others in a ceremonial check presentation highlighting the \$2.8 million loan to rehabilitate the present sewage treatment plant and two pump station sites servicing Hallstead Borough, Great Bend

Borough and Great Bend Township. USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental programs provide loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

Coatesville Health Development Corporation



Coatesville Health Development Corporation received a \$3,000,000 Community Facilities loan from USDA Rural Development to help fund the construction of the Brandywine Health and Housing Center that will serve the uninsured and underinsured residents and families in the Coatesville (Chester County) community with medical and dental needs, supportive services and 24 senior housing units. USDA Rural Development also provided a \$1.5 million loan guarantee. Pictured at the site is Rural Development's State Director Groves, Housing Administrator, Russ Davis, and Rural Development Manager, Sue Gantz.

Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Recipients

The 9006 grant recipients in Pennsylvania were announced in August in Mt. Joy. Brubaker Farms, a recipient of a \$223,249 grant hosted the event. The other recipients included Reinford Farms of Mifflintown, Juniata County (\$203,600) and Bortnick Dairy of Conneautville, Crawford County (\$357,251).

Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants fund projects that, through improvements to a facility or process, reduce energy consumption.

The monies to the above recipients will be used to construct anaerobic digester systems that will produce KWHs of energy utilizing the farm's manure to increase farm revenue by optimizing the recovery and use of the resulting energy. Pictured is the audience gathered for the event including in the foreground Dane Bowerman, Business Program Specialist (right) and next to him, Vince Murphy, Rural Business & Cooperative Program Director.



Apple Valley Creamery

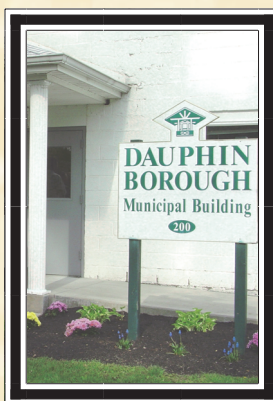


The owners of Apple Valley Creamery operate a 50 cow dairy farm near East Berlin, Adams County. Most of the milk is shipped to a large dairy cooperative. The owners wanted to expand the farm's operation to include a processing plant and retail store. Rural Development's Value-Added Producer Grant (VADG) of \$110,894 for working capital costs helped get the project started. The creamery will pasteurize raw milk from grass fed cows into different levels of fat content and also flavored milk products for direct sale to the public, including butter and a drinkable

yogurt. A ceremonial check presentation was held in the fall of 2006 to highlight this project and two other VADG recipients—Pennsylvania Independent Poultry Producers of Duncannon (\$25,000) and Pennsylvania Beef Council of Middletown (\$20,000). The Keystone Development Center, Inc. of York was also recognized (see photo at right) for receiving a \$225,000 Rural Cooperative Development Grant to assist rural businesses and farmers in developing cooperative business ventures. Pictured are Rural Development's State Director Groves and Business Programs Administrator Jackie Gleason (center) with members of the Center's Board.



Dauphin Borough



Dauphin Borough, Dauphin County received a \$2,353,000 loan from USDA Rural Development to upgrade and expand its sewer system. The multi-faceted project included sewer extensions, a sewer collection system, a new pump station outside of the flood plain to replace the existing malfunctioning 45 year old pump station, newer and larger diameter force mains, wastewater treatment facility equipment replacement as well as repairs to some existing sewer lines that carry substantial amounts of inflow. The project was featured in an event to commemorate the 36th anniversary of Earth Day highlighting Rural Development's commitment to the environmental stewardship that was formed with the first Earth Day.

Special Events



Broadband Conference

Rural Development was a co-sponsor of a free Broadband Conference in February at Clarion University, Clarion County. Over 100 registrants heard presentations from Rural Development Broadband specialists in Washington and western Pennsylvania's General Field Representative Ron Mellon, pictured left. Pictured above is Chari Sowash, for Bradford Regional Medical Center, recipient of a



\$110,575 Distance Telemedicine Grant who also spoke (see page 7) . For more information on Broadband, see <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/>

Renewable Energy Conference



In June, Rural Development co-sponsored a free Renewable Energy Conference in Harrisburg. Over 200 attendees (pictured below left) heard speakers on the subjects of geothermal and anaerobic digester systems, biodiesel fuels and agriculture economics. One of the speakers was Race Miner of Keystone Biofuels who spoke about his experiences with the start up of the biodiesel production plant (pictured below right and on the cover). Rural Development provided a \$5 million business and industry loan guarantee for the project. Thomas Dorr, USDA Rural Development Under Secretary (pictured left) was the keynote speaker. Mr. Dorr and State Director Groves presented a \$99,300 Rural Business Enterprise Grant ceremonial check to Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Inc. of Bedford to

complete a feasibility study for the development of a biofuels plant in the Southern Alleghenies region. For more information on Renewable Energy, see: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>



National Homeownership Month



National Homeownership Month was celebrated with a ceremonial check presentation and agreement signing ceremony (left)

in Shippensburg, Cumberland County with Interfaith Housing, a nonprofit organization, that received a \$558,192 Self-Help grant to provide technical assistance to 21 families working together to build their own homes.

Pictured above is one of the new homeowners-to-be, Leila Reese, who spoke to the gathering. Pictured seated signing



the agreement is Tom Dorr, USDA Rural Development Under Secretary who participated in the event. Another event pictures (opposite) Rural Development employees volunteering a day-long sweat equity contribution to two families helping to get their homes under roof in Fairchance, Fayette County. Threshold Housing Development Corp, who previously received a technical assistance grant from Rural Development, oversees the construction of the homes. Self-Help Housing loans help groups of 6 to 10 low-income families build their own homes by providing materials and the skilled labor they cannot furnish themselves. The families must agree to work together until all homes are finished. Self-Help works in combination with a grant program to nonprofit organizations and the direct single family lending program (although other home financing sources can be used.) The nonprofits help the families build their houses by providing technical assistance.



Earth Day



Earth Day 2006 was celebrated with the announcement in McClellandtown by the Utilities Program Administrator Jim Andrew of the \$3,145,000 loan and \$4,800,000 grant to the German Township Sewer Authority. The monies will be used to construct wastewater collection, conveyance, pumping and treatment facilities to serve approximately 477 residential and commercial users in the Edenborn and McClellandtown areas of German Township, Fayette County which is Phase 1 of the project. The area's numerous malfunctioning on-lot systems and untreated or improperly treated sewage helped contribute to intolerable conditions. This assistance is a great example of Rural Development's mission to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

USDA Rural Development's Commitment to the Environment

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes the federal government's environmental policies. Its primary goal is to help public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of the environmental consequences of their actions, and to take actions that protect, restore and enhance the environment.

To accomplish this, USDA Rural Development requires its applicants and borrowers to consider environmental impacts before taking actions financed by the Agency. The same is true for private lenders whose loans are guaranteed by the Agency. Before any USDA Rural Development assistance may be approved, the Agency will assess the environmental impact of the proposed action to ensure that steps are taken to avoid or reduce adverse effects.

Rural Business & Cooperative Program

The Business & Industry loan program guaranteed \$55,870,000 in loans to 23 rural businesses to help create or save approximately 1,200 jobs. Additionally, the Specialty Lending program's two Intermediary Relending Program loans further assisted rural businesses, and eleven Rural Business Enterprise Grants to public bodies and non-profit corporations also helped small and emerging businesses. A \$50,000 Rural Business Opportunity Grant was received by Tioga County Development Corporation for technical assistance and planning activities to improve economic conditions. The Cooperative Program provided organizational and financial development and resource identification technical assistance to five cooperatives and four groups desiring to be cooperatives in Pennsylvania in 2006. Work continued with partner agencies and organizations, including the Keystone Development Center, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Faith Based and Community Initiatives

In February, the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) and the Departments of Justice, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Veterans Affairs, Health & Human Services, Housing & Urban Development, Education, Agency for International Development and the Small Business Administration held a targeted free workshop in Harrisburg attended by hundreds of representatives from social service groups. The workshop provided an explanation of FBCI and the Equal Treatment Rule, guidance on partnering with the federal government, grant writing tutorials, opportunity to network with federal agencies with FBCI programs, etc. The workshop is part of a series of regional conferences and targeted workshops that are being held around the country. For more information: <http://www.usda.gov/fbc>

Civil Rights

Assuring equal opportunity in employment and program delivery is essential in administering USDA Rural Development programs. Each USDA Rural Development employee is responsible for ensuring the highest quality of services for all recipients and beneficiaries of our programs. USDA Rural Development is committed to fair and equal treatment to employees and customers.

Pennsylvania State Office
Gary H. Groves, State Director
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996
711 or 1-800-654-5984 (Hearing Impaired)

(717) 237-2299
www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa

Northwest Area Office, Area 1
Robert Schoenfeldt, Area Director
(814) 336-6155, ext. 114

Crawford Local Office, Area 1
14699 N. Main Street Extension
Meadville, PA 16335-9441
(814) 336-6155 ext. 4

Clinton Local Office, Area 1
216 Spring Run Road, Room 103
Mill Hall, PA 17751-9543
(570) 726-3196, ext. 4

Southwest Area Office, Area 2
Lambert Rosenbaum, Area Director
(724) 482-4800, ext. 116

Butler Local Office, Area 2
625 Evans City Road, Suite 101
Butler, PA 16001-8728
(724) 482-4800, ext. 4

Westmoreland Local Office, Area 2
226 Donohoe Road, Suite 1
Greensburg, PA 15601-6987
(724) 853-5555 ext. 4

Northeast Area Office, Area 3
Jack Kauffman, Area Director
(610) 791-9810, ext. 111

Lehigh Local Office, Area 3
2211 Mack Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18103-5623
(610) 791-9810, ext. 4

Lycoming Local Office, Area 3
542 County Farm Road, Suite 205
Montoursville, PA 17754-9209
(570) 433-3006 ext. 4

Wyoming Local Office, Area 3
One Hollowcrest Complex
Tunkhannock, PA 18657-6632
(570) 836-5111 ext. 4

Southeast Area Office, Area 4
George Klaus, Area Director
(717) 755-2966, ext. 125

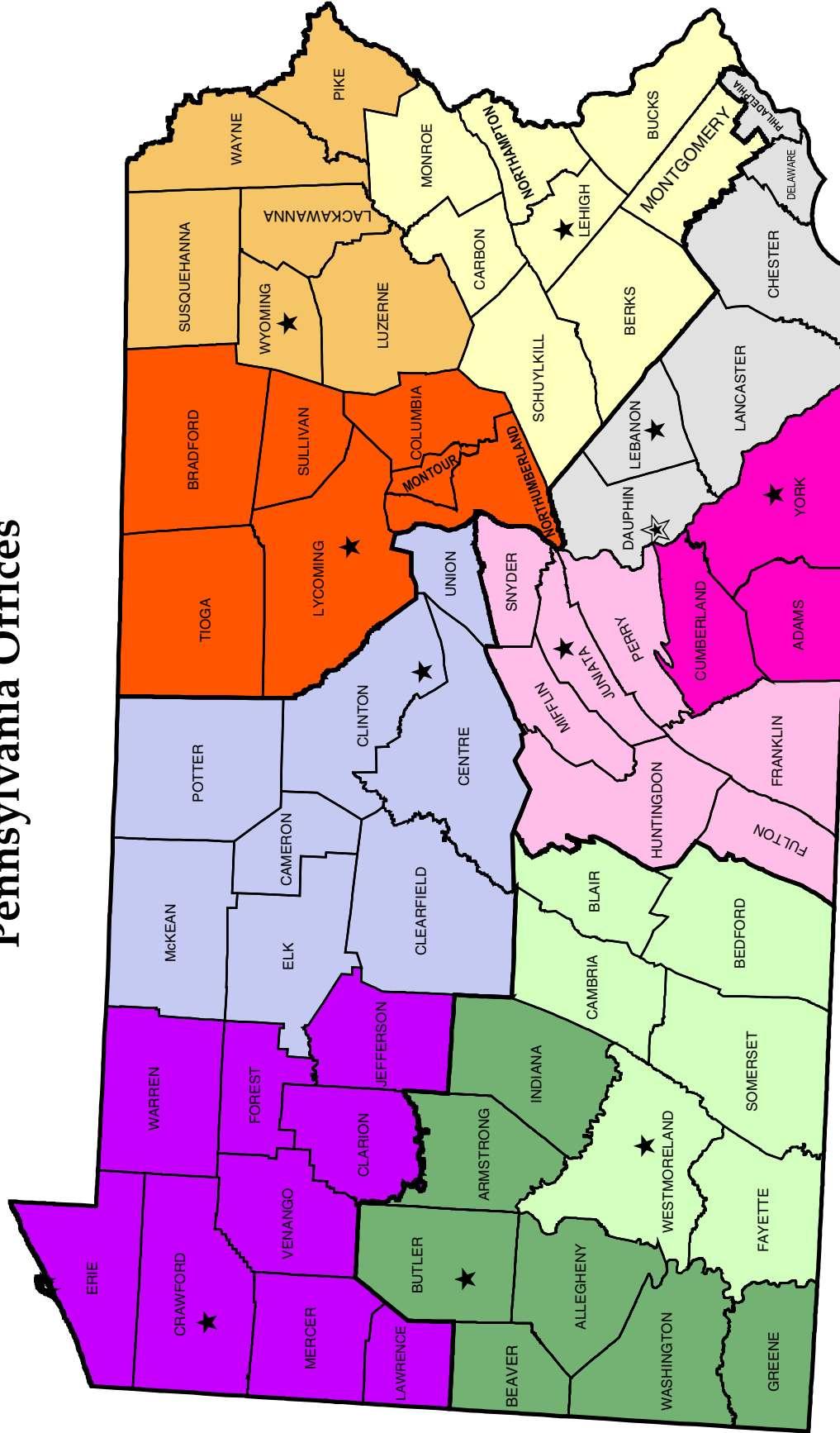
Juniata Local Office, Area 4
R. R. #5, Box 35
Stoney Creek Drive
Mifflintown, PA 17059-9533
(717) 436-8953, ext. 4










York Local Office, Area 4
124 Pleasant Acres Road
York, PA 17402-8988
(717) 755-2966, ext. 4

Lebanon Local Office, Area 4
2120 Cornwall Road, Suite 7
Lebanon, PA 17042-9790
(717) 272-3908 ext. 6

USDA Rural Development

Pennsylvania Offices



	Crawford Local Office 14699 N. Main St. Extension Meadville, PA 16335-9441 (814) 336-6155 EXT. 4
	Clinton Local Office 216 Spring Run Rd., RM 103 Mill Hall, PA 17751-9543 (570) 726-3196 EXT. 4
	Butler Local Office 625 Evans City Rd., Suite 101 Butler, PA 16001-8704 (724) 482-4800 EXT. 4
	Westmoreland Local Office 226 Donohoe Rd., Suite 1 Greensburg, PA 15601-6987 (724) 853-5555 EXT. 4
	Lehigh Local Office 2211 Mack Blvd. Allentown, PA 18103-5623 (610) 791-9810 EXT. 4
	Wyoming Local Office One Hollowcrest Complex Tunkhannock, PA 18657-6632 (570) 836-5111 EXT. 4
	York Local Office 124 Pleasant Acres Rd. York, PA 17402-8988 (717) 755-2966 EXT. 4
	Lebanon Local Office 2120 Cornwall Rd., Suite 7 Lebanon, PA 17042-9790 (717) 272-3908 EXT. 6
	Juniata Local Office R.R. #5, Box 35 Mifflintown, PA 17059-9533 (717) 436-8953 EXT. 4